

Read Novel Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1081-1090

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1081

"I'm sorry," Cecilia said quickly. She was blaming Julian while not excusing herself at the same time. "I should've objected vehemently to this engagement right from the start."

Despite her words, she didn't do anything about it at all.

Both she and Julian were wrong in their own right. Thus, it was pointless to shift the blame.

"Bring Noel to me," Cecilia demanded. He was the person she wanted to see the most.

Cecilia refused to wait aimlessly. Bent on getting her way, she decided to go back on her promise she made at the countryside right there and then.

"I'll tell my mom to call off the engagement only after Noel accepts my confession and gets together with me," she said.

"But before, you told me that as long as I stay at Albert's that night and wait for Noel with you, you'd tell your mother about calling off the engagement," Julian argued.

Cecilia shrugged. "I did say that."

However!

"I'm going back on my word."

After thinking things through, Cecilia decided waiting without doing nothing was useless. It was obvious Julian

couldn't care less about her and Noel. She missed Noel dearly and wanted to see him, and she needed Julian's help for that.

Julian had no choice but to try and talk reason to her. "Noel might need some time. He'll appear when he comes around."

"And when will that be?"

Cecilia knew that the moment she called off her engagement with Julian, he wouldn't be bothered with her.

Sue had stopped leveraging the Jarvis family's network to help Cecilia find Noel. If Julian turned a blind eye to Cecilia, getting reunited with Noel would become a faraway dream for her.

"Call me selfish or shameless if you wish," Cecilia said.

She didn't care. Only those who have been apart from their loved ones know how terrible it feels to be unable to see the other party.

"It's true I don't love you anymore, but I'm not so generous as to let you and Diana lead a happy life while I'm still waiting for Noel to appear. What if he decides never to show up ever again?"

How on earth was she going to find him?

How was she going to confess her love for him?

Julian was furious with her. Nothing he said was getting into her head!

At that instant, he wanted to tell Sue about calling off the engagement himself.

Despite that, he knew Sue would refuse him. Heck, the matter might blow up and cause

his efforts to backfire.

He had only one choice that could give him the greatest chance of success—and that was by giving in to Cecilia.

Julian finally came to a decision. "One week. By then, I'll bring Noel to you. But you have to keep your promise."

Cecilia liked Noel, and Noel liked her too.

The last time Julian told Noel that Cecilia liked him, Noel refused to believe him.

Julian thought that if Noel heard it personally from Cecilia, he would definitely be over the moon. The two of them would no doubt get together in the blink of an eye.

Calling off the engagement would only be a matter of time.

Cecilia grinned. "Deal!"

After leaving Cecilia's room, Julian called for all his subordinates to join in the search for Noel.

However, Noel had worked so long for Julian that he knew Julian's subordinates and modus operandi like the back of his hand. Each time Julian's subordinates found a clue on his whereabouts, he would've been long gone by the time they rushed there. He seemed to sense it whenever they found him.

Soon, the one week Julian promised Cecilia almost passed.

Over the past four days, he had been so busy with work and keeping a close watch over the search for Noel that he hardly had time to see Diana.

"Daddy," Betty called. She pouted unhappily as she stood at the side, hugging her doll.

Julian ignored her, and continued staring at his computer screen.

Betty looked at Julian, displeased. She said in a huff, "Just be with your work! I don't need you anymore! I can go find Mommy and Sean without you!"

She had money, anyway.

If Mommy and Sean were far away, she could just hail a taxi.

Betty's voice was becoming less childish and much clearer by the day.

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Julian felt as if a bird had flown past him, blowing a slight breeze on his face.

He looked up. The coldness in his eyes melted into tenderness.

"Betty."

Julian finally closed his laptop, and reached his hands out to his daughter. "Come here for a hug with Daddy."

“No!” Betty wasn’t about to be placated by Julian into accepting everything with just a few words of comfort. “You promised you’d take me to see Mommy and Sean.”

Betty’s voice was laced with indignation. She put out her fingers, and said to Julian, “It’s been three days. Oh, wait.”

She put down three fingers, and counted again before putting out four fingers.

“It’s been four days, and you haven’t told me when you’re going to take me to them!”

Betty called them so many times in a day, since video calling Mommy was the only thing she could do.

Sean wasn’t willing to be in the video call. Each time she called out to him through the video, she could only hear his response. She couldn’t see his face at all.

Betty missed him. She wanted to give Mommy a hug, too.

She didn’t just want to say that she wanted to kiss and hug Mommy over the phone.

“I miss Mommy, too,” Julian said. He paused for a moment, his eyes revealing his helplessness. “As well as Sean, of course.”

‘Then let’s drive to them,’ Betty said as she tilted her head, looking at Julian confusedly. “Since we have a car, we can find Mommy and Sean real fast. Why don’t we do that?”

Julian didn’t have the right to.

He failed to call off his engagement with Cecilia. He couldn’t find Noel, either.

Was he really going to see Diana as the fiancée of another woman?

What could he say to her in that position?

Even hugging her seemed indecent of him.

Diana had done so much and suffered so much for him. He didn’t want her to feel uncomfortable in any way.

Julian looked down, his long lashes hiding the disappointment and hope in his eyes. He crouched, held Betty's hands, and asked, "Do you really want to see Mommy?"

Daddy's hands were long and broad. It enveloped Betty's own like a warm glove, and it suddenly made her feel like crying.

She looked at him, her large eyes wet with tears.

"Daddy... Waaah...! You used to hold my hand like this in the past, but not anymore now... I want to hold Sean and

Mommy's hands, and be together with everyone..."

That was what Julian wanted, too.

Yet, he didn't have the right now.

"It's alright," he said, as he hugged Betty and wiped her tears away. "Since you miss them, I'll send you to Mommy and Sean."

"Thank you, Daddy!" Betty was elated that her wish had come true. She flung her doll aside and hugged Julian's neck tight.

"You're welcome, honey," Julian said, as he pecked Betty's cheek lightly. Seeing Betty in a good mood, he added, "But you must promise Daddy one thing."

"What is it?" Betty was slightly stunned. She pouted indignantly, and asked, "Daddy can send me to Mommy and Sean, but not today. Is that it?"

Recently, that was what he had been like.

Delaying things day by day.

He would always end up not fulfilling his promises. What was the point of promising her in the first place?

Betty's little face fell.

"No." Julian shook his head as he carried her outside. "I'll send you to Mommy right away. I won't go back on my word, and I won't postpone it."

Diana was currently staying with Nina. She never returned to Collina Villa.

"You must promise Daddy," Julian said solemnly to Betty, "you can't tell Mommy that it was Daddy who sent you to her, okay?"

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Betty thought about it, then asked, "if Daddy didn't send me, who would?"

She wanted Daddy to send her there. She wanted to stay with Daddy.

Julian had been busy working in his study recently, and it was usually the nanny who took care of Betty at home.

What Julian said inevitably made Betty indignant.

Upon seeing his daughter's crystal clear eyes, Julian suddenly felt embarrassed to speak. "I didn't mean that."

"Who is it, then?" Betty urged. She wanted to see Mommy and Sean soon.

"Well... Daddy's still the one who will send you. You just can't tell Mommy that it's Daddy who sent you." Julian looked at her chubby cheeks. "Do you understand?"

Betty nodded. "I do!"

Her voice was bright and crisp. As she went on, however, her following words were a slap to Julian's face.

"Daddy wants me to lie. Adults always tell us not to lie, but Daddy..." Betty paused for a moment, trying to find the right words to say. "Daddy's forcing me to lie."

Julian said exasperatedly, "I'm not forcing you."

He, an adult, was unable to refute the claims of a two-year-old.

Betty looked into his eyes, and said, "Then I'll tell Mommy you sent me to her, okay?"

"Don't!" Julian blurted out in a panic. "If you do that, I won't send you to her."

Betty's face fell. "You're forcing me now..."

This was clearly a case of an adult teaching a child to lie...

Julian was suddenly scared of her.

The older children got, the smarter they became.

He used to think that Sean was the smart one. Now, though, he found Betty highly intelligent. Each of them was capable of astonishing him.

In fact, when he fought with Diana before, he didn't dare to hug Sean, whom he thought was the smartest of the twins. Instead, he chose Betty, who was easier to coax.

Julian couldn't imagine what life would be like if the twins and Diana weren't by his side. Most probably, he would go mad missing them.

Having Betty by his side comforted him greatly. And yet, the little girl was becoming cheekier by the day.

Julian blushed to hear Betty's words, and he was too embarrassed to say anything more. Thankfully, Betty was in a good mood and didn't harp on Julian forcing her to lie.

Throughout the entire journey, she chattered on incessantly about her new Barbie doll. She brought along a dress she made for the doll, so she could show it to Mommy.

She was still so young, but she was already adept at handicrafts. She must have inherited that skill from Diana.

Julian could always find traces of Diana in Betty.

Genes and inheritance were such a mystery!

Julian hugged Betty tight. He swore to himself that he would stand before Diana as a single man, and reunite the entire family within a month tops!

"Mr. Fulcher, we're here." The driver couldn't bear to interrupt the heartwarming moment between the father and daughter. He and only spoke when he arrived at the entrance of the district.

A long time ago, Julian once rented an apartment at this estate for Kayla. Nina had been staying here over the past three years as Vans's neighbor. She never moved out.

Back then, Julian and Kayla were staying right below Nina's unit. He would frequently hang around in the balcony, just to catch a glimpse of Diana.

Memories flashed past his mind as mixed feelings filled his heart. The more he reminisced, the greater his guilt toward Diana.

He eventually chose not to step out of the car.

"Betty," he said, "you're the bravest and best little girl ever. You head in and look for Mommy yourself while I watch from the car, okay?"

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"But..." Betty looked unhappily at Julian. "I'm scared."

The car parked at quite a far distance from the apartment.

Betty intertwined her fingers, feeling extremely upset. "What if someone finds me so adorable and decide to kidnap me ...?"

Julian saw how serious she looked. Suddenly, he was at a loss for words. He paused for a moment before finally saying, "You won't get kidnapped."

It was more likely for Betty to fool a random sob into buying candies for her.

He wasn't sending Betty directly to the door to avoid bumping into Diana. It wasn't as if he was going to just ignore her. He would keep an eye on her as she walked in.

To top it all off, he had contacted Vans earlier. He told the latter to go downstairs and wait for Betty to arrive at the door.

"Why not?" Betty asked.

She cupped her cheeks in her palms, and looked prettily at Julian. Her eyes twinkled like the stars in the sky, making her look utterly adorable. She rubbed her face back and forth on his body.

"I don't care," she said. "I want Daddy to bring me there."

She wanted Daddy and Mommy to see each other.

Although Sean didn't say it, Betty knew he must be missing her and Daddy. He was always like that, keeping all his feelings to himself.

Before, when Mommy had been busy with work, she was so busy that she lost track of time and forgot to buy food for them-even though Sean and Betty stayed by her side.

When she asked them whether they were hungry, Sean would always purse his lips and continue finding little ways to help Mommy while insisting that he wasn't hungry.

Betty would laugh and tell Mommy that Sean's stomach started growling long ago, and that she could hear it loud and clear.

Each time Betty exposed Sean's lie, his face would darken with displeasure. His angry expression drove her into hiding fearfully behind Diana. Still, she wouldn't hesitate to do the same thing when it happened again. She would always expose his lies.

She knew that contrary to Sean claiming that he wasn't hungry, he would always gobble up his food faster than her.

Actually...

Daddy wasn't the only one who taught her how to lie.

Now that she thought about it, even Sean had been lying.

The gears in Betty's mind shifted quickly the more she thought.

She suddenly bent forward, and exclaimed, "Ouch! My stomach hurts...!"

She made a face as if she were really in pain, scrunching herself up into a ball at Julian's feet. Even so, she couldn't bear to let go of her Barbie doll.

"I need Daddy to send me there..."

Her expression was so exaggerated, as if she was worried others couldn't tell that she was acting.

Julian almost couldn't hold his laughter back. Eventually, he was able to reel in his amusement. He even played along with her.

He turned around and retrieved the first aid kit from the boot of the car, and said solemnly, "It's alright. A quick injection will solve the problem."

Betty's eyes widened in shock. "You're not a doctor! Only doctors and nurses can give me an injection!"

An injection hurt. She hated it!

She would never let Daddy give her an injection.

"Your stomach hurts so badly," Julian said worriedly. "If I don't do anything about it, are we going to let it continue hurting you?"

With that, he held Betty's arm down and disinfected a spot, preparing to jab the needle in. Betty immediately jumped up in fright.

If it weren't for the high ceiling of the car and her short stature, she would've knocked her head against the ceiling.

Thankfully, given her height, she was able to stand up straight in the car. There was fear in her eyes as she looked at Julian.

"It doesn't hurt anymore, Daddy." She smiled, and patted her little stomach. "It really doesn't hurt anymore."

With that, she pulled the door open and stepped out.

"See! I can even walk by myself!"

She looked so proud of herself, as if she had won an award.

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Julian held back his laughter. He put back the disinfecting lotion into the first aid kit.

"That's great! Betty's so strong and brave! Daddy doesn't need to give Betty an injection anymore."

“Yes!” Betty nodded repeatedly, feeling that she had escaped death. She even waved her hands at Julian, worried that staying in the car a minute longer would make him think of giving her an injection again. “I’ll go find Mommy myself, then.”

She had long grown familiar with Nina’s place. Even if no one picked her up, she could make her way around this estate by herself.

Ever since she acknowledged Julian as her father, she had attended many self-defense classes—something members of wealthy families often insisted upon.

Julian wasn’t worried that anything could happen to Betty right under his nose.

He waved his hands. “Go ahead, but don’t forget what you promised Daddy…”

He deliberately stopped mid-sentence, waiting for Betty to complete his sentence and tell him that she promised not to tell Diana he had sent her here.

Yet, Betty shook her head and looked at him in a daze.”

Daddy, what did I promise you? Can you complete your sentence?”

Julian wondered if Betty was usually this forgetful.

No, that wasn’t right.

She remembered exactly when she demanded him to buy her dolls and candies, down to the second.

By the time he was about to remind Betty about her promise, she had run off. She vanished quickly, as if someone was chasing after her.

Julian looked down, and realized that he hadn’t stored the needle back into the first aid kit. Perhaps Betty thought that he might chase after her and insist on giving her the jab.

How could he possibly know how to administer an injection?

He was just trying to scare her.

There wasn't even a needle in the tube. The only thing he did was to use the disinfecting lotion just to make things look convincing.

Somehow, this injection...

It triggered memories of him and Diana in the hospital ward in the past.

At that time, he requested for her to administer an injection for him. She had glared at him so furiously in front of Oliver, her cheeks puffing up.

But now...

Forget teasing her, he didn't even dare think about what would happen if she heard his name.

Diana had been in a bad mood ever since she returned from the cemetery.

She sat there for a long time, cleaning Grandma's tombstone and talking to the latter as if she had never left— that she had never forgotten about Grandma.

The more she talked, the clearer Grandma's smiling face became in her mind.

Diana recalled how Grandma would insist on wrapping dumplings for them each time the weather turned cold, despite being advanced in years.

That was especially so during those three years she was married to Julian. Then, it truly felt like they were a happy family. Diana could feel the love of her husband and his kin.

She couldn't recall the exact taste of the dumplings, but she remembered that they were delicious. So delicious that she, Grandma, and Julian would end up smiling contentedly as they ate.

Even the lights in the room brightened up along with their smiles.

But now, Grandma was no longer around. Diana and Julian weren't together anymore. Forget enjoying Grandma's dumplings, he didn't bother admitting that he was an investor of hers. He didn't even care about her feelings as he left that day.

Forget eating dumplings with her, they hadn't kept contact at all even until today.

Every time she called Betty, Betty would tell her that Julian was busy.

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She gradually stopped expecting him to apologize to her, and come clean with her that he was Mr. Whatever.

Forget it.

All was good as long as he was still alive.

"Diana," Nina said as she poked her. "A penny for your thoughts? The elevator's here. Let's head down."

They agreed to buy some fresh flowers to visit Grandma, Aster and Star's tombstones. Diana wanted to let Sean see Grandma, too. Grandma was probably looking forward to finally seeing her great-grandchildren.

A pity Betty wasn't with her.

Speak of the devil.

Diana was lost in her thoughts when she suddenly heard Nina yell out, "Betty! Betty!"

Diana was dazed. "Betty?"

Betty stood right before Diana, clad in a sky blue princess dress and with tears welling up in her eyes.

Diana was about to crouch and shower Betty with kisses, when Betty suddenly pounced on Nina.

"Godmother!" She clung onto Nina tightly. "I've missed you so much! So, so, so much! Do you miss me?"

Diana looked on exasperatedly.

Whatever Betty was doing was bound to capture Nina's heart. If she guessed it right, Betty was going to ask Nina for something.

As Diana expected, Nina's face broke into a mix of expressions-happiness, disbelief, and a bit of smugness.

Children loved her.

Children absolutely adored her!

Subconsciously, Nina started acting coyly with Betty. “Oh, Betty! Why do you miss me so much? You haven’t even given your mommy and brother a hug yet!”

Vans, who had just exited the elevator, was slightly taken aback at the scene he witnessed.

What a familiar tone.

It was also something he hadn’t heard for quite a while.

Sorrow flashed past his eyes, and he swallowed past his constricted throat. However, he concealed his feelings.

When he looked up again, he was his normal self.

“Why did you two come down?”

He saw Betty hugging Nina, and texted Julian that Betty had arrived safely. Then, he approached the ladies.

“We were heading out to buy some flowers,” Nina said.

She quickly went back to talking to Betty.

Betty clung tightly to Nina’s neck, calling Nina Godmother again and again in the sweetest voice. When she saw Vans walking near, she called him Godfather; it delighted made Vans.

“Betty, tell me,” he said enthusiastically, “is there anything you want to buy? I’ll get it for you.”

Nina sneered, and shoved him hard. “What Godfather? She doesn’t know what she’s talking about, and you’re just responding to her blindly.”

She hugged Betty close, and said, “Betty, tell me what you want instead. I’ll buy it for you!”

Betty’s eyes shifted from left to right, the smile on her face widening. “Really?”

Nina nodded. "Of course!"

Betty immediately leaned into her ear, and whispered something. When she was done, she even reminded Nina, "I don't need you to spend money to buy anything for me. I can do that with my own money."

What she really needed was Nina's help.

Diana was curious. "Betty, what exactly do you want?"

"I'm not telling you," Betty said. Having achieved her goal, she left Nina's embrace and turned back to Diana and Sean.

Before leaving, she didn't forget to remind Nina again. "Godmother, don't tell Mommy about it, okay?"

Nina didn't know whether to laugh or cry at Betty. She nodded slowly, looking as if she was put in a difficult spot.

Betty's request...

Was too difficult to fulfill.

Diana saw the look on Nina's face, and knew she wouldn't get an answer from the latter. She had to give up for now and wait for Nina to say it of her own accord.

But...

"Who sent you here?" Diana asked Betty.

A little girl her age couldn't possibly come all the way here from Julian's place all by herself.

Was Julian here too?

Where was he, then?

At that moment, Diana felt as if a gentle breeze was caressing her heart that had been left abandoned by the roadside. It had started beating once again.

Diana hadn't seen Julian since she found her memories back.

Even though she no longer expected him to admit that he was Mr. Whatever, she wished he would stand right before her and let her take a good look at him.

“Daddy did,” Betty said honestly, completely forgetting what Julian requested for her.

She was a good little girl.

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Betty missed Mommy when she was with Daddy. Now that she had seen Mommy, she missed Daddy.

She wanted to be with both of them forever.

She didn't like that they, as a family, had to live apart from each other. It wasn't as if their house wasn't big enough for all of them to stay together. If Mommy wanted to be with Godmother, couldn't they all stay under one roof?

Why must Daddy and Mommy live separately from each other?

“Where is he?” Diana asked Betty, agitated. “Will he come find us later?”

Betty felt put in a spot. Daddy didn't even want to bring her to the apartment.

“Hush.” Betty shook her head, and exposed Julian without any hesitation. “Daddy didn't let me tell you that he was the one who drove me here, so I guess he won't come in.”

But...

“Don't worry.” Betty broke into a sweet smile. “I've already asked Godmother to help ask Daddy to stay.”

That was exactly what she whispered into Nina's ears.

No wonder Nina and Vans weren't around anymore.

Diana looked outward. Julian doted on his daughter so much. He would surely agree to come over and see her. Even Nina and Vans were there to persuade him.

Diana started to feel nervous. She even looked at her own reflection in the mirror, to check if she was dressed well.

To a certain extent, this would be the first time they met each other over the past three years.

Diana was very excited about the prospect.

She couldn't wait to meet the man she loved so deeply that she was unable to let go of, be it in the past or now-as herself, with her complete memories.

He had experienced pain and death.

She left her home in exchange for his life. And now, she was back.

They were finally able to stand before each other.

They even had two darlings between them.

Nothing was more perfect than this.

Very soon, Nina returned.

"Where's Julian?" Diana could help but blurt out, out of concern for the man she cared for the most.

Betty and Sean were also looking expectantly at Nina.

Earlier when Betty leaned against Nina's neck and whispered to her, she had promised Betty that she would make Julian stay, and then come to see Sean and Diana.

Recalling his attitude, however, she was put in a spot.

"He..." Nina began.

Seeing Nina hesitating, a bad feeling rose in Diana's heart." He doesn't want to see me, does he?"

He still had feelings for Cecilia.

He couldn't bear to call off the engagement or even to see her, because he didn't want to disappoint the heiress of the Jarvis family.

After Diana said that, she fell into a daze.

That was when Nina realized how little she knew of Diana's thoughts compared to Sean, despite living with Diana.

Nina thought that Diana meant it when she said she didn't want to see Julian anymore. In reality, Diana still had expectations that he would come find her.

Otherwise, Diana wouldn't be so disappointed and emotional right now.

Nina tried to find the right words to comfort her. "Diana, hear me out."

"No," Diana said.

She didn't know what she could say to express what she was feeling right now. She felt as though her surroundings were covered by a black cloth; it pressured and suffocated her, and stripped her of all energy to do anything at all.

She was despondent.

Should she really continue living like this?

Missing him, yet not going to meet him.

Waiting for him, yet he would never come.

He refused to appear, no matter how spitefully she behaved.

Was what she said out of spite, about her taking Sean and him taking Betty, going to come true?

No way. He hadn't given her a proper explanation yet!

If he kept hiding from her and she couldn't let go of things, then she would go find him!

Just then, Sean, who had been silent all this while, spoke up.

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Sean looked up and asked, "Daddy didn't say he wanted to see Mommy or me, right?"

His voice was laced with disappointment.

Diana's heart tightened. She subconsciously retracted her steps. "Sean..."

"It's alright," Sean said, with a smile that everyone could see didn't come from the bottom of his heart. At that moment, he was akin to a fragile glass doll that could break anytime." I don't want to see him, either."

Anyone could tell that he didn't mean what he said.

Tears fell down Diana's cheeks. She looked at her son standing right before her.

Sean was a child who wouldn't cry, even when he took a fall.

When the twins were younger, Diana would often run out of energy taking care of both of them at the same time.

Once, she opened the windows of a room for ventilation. She needed to breastfeed them and drew the curtains to protect her privacy, but she forgot that the window behind it wasn't closed properly.

After she was done breastfeeding, she carried Sean over her shoulders to burp him, so she could prevent bloating and make him feel more comfortable. When she stood and carried him, she heard a thud.

Diana's mind went blank.

Sean was only four months old back then. His skull hadn't fused together yet, and it was still very fragile.

When she carried him, she accidentally hit his head against the sharp corner of the window that wasn't closed tightly.

It was such a sharp corner; he had collided with it with such force that even an adult might find it unbearable, not to mention an infant like him.

Sean himself was stunned for a few seconds.

He then pursed his lips, and cried out loud. His entire face was flushed red from crying; Diana knew it must hurt badly.

She was at a loss as to what to do, and wondered if she should send him to the hospital for a check-up. Suddenly, Sean stopped crying. It was as if he was trying to comfort her and tell her that he was fine.

Diana cried back then, too. While she checked Sean's head for injury, she was filled with remorse.

Her heart ached for Sean and his resilience; he must be feeling the pain of having his head hit the window. It clearly hurt badly, so much that his face went red. How could he possibly stop himself from crying so quickly?

Diana didn't even need to coax him to stop.

Betty, on the other hand, was lying on the bed. Diana was paying attention to Sean and neglected her; she ended up grabbing a cloth book, and it hit her face. She ended up crying a storm.

That book was made from cloth and didn't cause any injury to her face, but Betty was inconsolable.

Diana had no choice but to put Sean down and carry Betty in her arms, and coax her for a while. Only then did she finally stop crying.

Even as infants, the twins' personalities were worlds apart. Betty was the typical child who would smile when she was happy and cry when she was sad.

As the saying goes, the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

Because of the difference in their characters, Betty was the twin who got more attention than Sean.

It wasn't that everyone preferred her. It was just that sometimes, they would often neglect the child who didn't whine or demand for things; the child who would instead do things for you in silence and give you comfort.

During this period, Diana was too caught up with her own feelings and Betty's mood after she was taken away by Julian. She didn't consider Sean.

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Even Julian, smart as he was, took Sean's silence for granted. He immediately chose to take Betty away the moment he opened the car door.

He and Diana thought the children would be split between them when they separated. Since Sean used to say he would choose Diana no matter what, Julian chose Betty.

In the process, Julian forgot to ask Sean if he wanted to choose Daddy and Mommy at the same time.

The thought stabbed Diana's heart; she felt even guiltier toward Sean.

She didn't intend for things to turn out like this. She even told herself she had to pay more attention to Sean, and yet...

In reality, she had failed his expectations and dismissed his feelings because of how sensible he was.

Diana crouched low and asked, "Sean, do you really not want to see Daddy?"

Worried Sean wouldn't tell her the truth, she answered on his behalf. "You actually really miss Daddy, don't you?"

Back then, Sean was the one who made acknowledging Julian as his father a reality. How could he not care about the father he fought so hard to have?

He was simply suppressing his feelings because of the conflict between adults.

The moment Diana asked him that question, Sean couldn't hold himself back anymore. He nodded, facing up to his own feelings for the first time.

"Yes," he said.

"Then I'll take you to find him," Diana said. She carried Sean up, and held Betty's hand in hers. She kept repeating to herself, "We'll go find Daddy together."

Sean wanted to stay put. He didn't want Diana to compromise for his sake. Yet, he really did want to see Julian.

After all, Julian wasn't just Betty's father. He was Sean's father, too.

He was father to both of them.

This time, Sean didn't object. He decided to listen to Mommy.

Nina stood next to them, holding Betty's other hand.

Diana said to Sean, "When you see Daddy later, you can tell him that you really miss him. You can also stay with Daddy for two days if you'd like.

"If you miss someone, be like Betty and say it out loud. Don't say what you don't mean. It'll just tire you out. Mommy doesn't want you to make your life so difficult.

'You're just a child. You don't need to be so strong and sensible.'

Diana had said this many times to Sean. Still, it was difficult for one's character to change so easily. Whether Sean could change or not, Diana had to do her best to remind him of this as much as she could.

Betty had a question. "What about after we grow up? When Sean and I grow up to be even taller than Mommy, is it okay if we're not strong and cry whenever we want?"

Diana nodded, and smiled tenderly at them. "As long as Mommy is around, you two can stay as children forever."

'Then I don't want Mommy to die,' Betty said.

She stretched her arms out, wanting Diana to carry her too. She acted as if Diana was going to die if she didn't hold Diana tight and cherish this moment right now.

Betty's actions lightened up the mood immediately. Diana and Nina exchanged glances, and gave each other a warm smile.

Diana didn't carry Betty. Nina did it in her stead. "Cheeky girl! You're not getting a hug from Mommy."

If Diana carried Betty too, Sean might just leave Diana's arms by himself and walk. He would assume they were too tall and heavy for Mommy to carry at once.

"Let Godmother carry you," Nina said.

"Will Mommy die?" Betty asked.

Sean was on the verge of tears over his sister's foolish words.

“Silly.” He sounded a little like Julian, his voice clear and crisp. “Mommy won’t die. She’ll be with us until we turn old and gray.”

Oh, silly boy! Which person in this world wouldn’t die?

“You precious children,” Diana said fondly. She looked at Sean and rubbed her chin against his soft hair, tightening her arms around him.

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The four of them left the neighborhood, laughing and chatting away.

Nina couldn’t fulfil Betty’s request of persuading Julian into coming into see them.

Still, she made Vans stay outside to keep watch. That way, she would have an explanation for Betty should the girl demand for one.

Thankfully, Vans was still around. That meant that Julian was still around too, even though he didn’t walk in. His car was still around as well.

Nina sighed in relief as she brought them all to his car.

Yet the closer they approached the car, the more obvious Vans’s displeasure was.

“What’s the matter?” Nina asked.

A bad feeling rose in her chest. She carried Betty, and walked ahead of Diana. Upon looking into the car, she realized that no one was inside.

Panicked, she demanded, ‘Where is he?’

Vans looked helplessly at her.

After Nina attended that banquet three years ago, she hadn’t reconciled with Vans. Thus, he aimed to please her as much as he could. If he could help it, he would never let Julian leave.

But...

Vans showed Nina the suit jacket in his arms. “I grabbed his jacket and refused to let him go, but he removed it and left anyway.”

Nina and Diana were both flabbergasted.

Was there a need for Julian to hide himself so well?

The great CEO of Fulcher Inc, leaving his car behind and running off by himself just so he wouldn't see her and Sean!

Betty and Sean didn't know what to say.

Diana had no idea how she could explain the current situation to Sean. Looking at him, she saw that his smile had disappeared. Once more, he fell silent.

She lowered her head, the expectations in her heart vanishing in that instant. The sudden surge of desire to see Julian no matter what it took, and the determination to take a step toward him, were immediately replaced by anger.

Her heart ached terribly as she mumbled, "Sean..."

Tears began welling up in Sean's eyes-eyes that resembled Julian's so much.

When Sean realized that Diana and Betty were looking at him, he hurriedly tried to blink his tears back.

He said to Diana, "That's fine. It's not as if I won't see him again next time."

Diana was infuriated by Julian. She looked at Sean and said, "Do you still want to see him? As long as you say you want to, Mommy will definitely make it happen today."

Sean knew Diana wouldn't believe him if he didn't tell her the truth.

"I do, but not today." He looked at Diana. "Today's the day we buy fresh flowers for that old grandma and our two brothers."

Since Betty was here right now, today was the best day for them to do so. If they didn't go today, Sean wondered until when they would have to postpone it.

Betty didn't understand. "Old grandma? Which old grandma? Brothers? Brothers from where?"

Sean tried to explain things to her. "They've become stars in the sky."

Betty became even more confused. Shocked, she asked, " You mean, we're flying up to the skies? To look at stars?"

"We're not flying up to the skies to look at stars," Diana corrected Betty.

She explained to Betty what she used to explain to Sean, about how people become stars after they pass away.

"Sean's telling you that we're taking you to see your GreatGrandma and brothers."

The mention of Aster and Star calmed Diana's anger.

"Besides Sean, you have two other older brothers. Although you've never met them and you won't meet them in the future, they've become stars and are always with us. Let's go take a look," she added.

As Sean said before, they could always see Julian next time.